Executive summary

The Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of its session.

Due to the fact that this is an extraordinary session of the Assembly and with a view to expediting the work of the session, and insofar as the host country is Spain, it might be appropriate for the Assembly to appoint the same Officers as those of the 24th ordinary session (Madrid, Spain, 1-3 December 2021) who have not been suspended from membership in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes, namely: Spain as President and Cambodia, Gambia, Hungary, India, Paraguay, Uruguay and Uzbekistan as Vice-Presidents.
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents,

Decides that the Officers of the first extraordinary session of the General Assembly, appointed in accordance with Rules 15 and 16 of its Rules of Procedure, are the same as those it appointed for its twenty-fourth ordinary session, namely:

President: Spain, represented by […]

Vice-Presidents:

Africa:
- Gambia

Americas:
- Paraguay
- Uruguay

Asia and the Pacific:
- Cambodia

Europe:
- Hungary
- Uzbekistan

South Asia:
- India

1 This is a draft resolution. For the final decision adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.
I. Introduction

1. In accordance with Article 13 of the Statutes, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of each session.

2. Rules 15 and 16 establish guidelines for the election of the President and Vice-Presidents:

   **Rule 15**
   
   "The Officers of the Assembly shall be the President and the Vice-Presidents elected for the duration of the session from among the Full Members."

   **Rule 16**
   
   1. "The session of the Assembly shall be opened by the President of the preceding session or by the head of the delegation to which he belonged.
   
   2. The Assembly shall elect its President.
   
   3. The Assembly shall elect its Vice-Presidents on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President."

II. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents

3. Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly provides for all elections to be carried out by secret ballot. It is nevertheless recalled that the Full Members holding the Presidency of the previous twenty-four sessions of the Assembly have all been elected by acclamation after consultations among delegations, with the head of delegation of the country hosting the session being traditionally chosen for this office.

4. It is also a long-standing practice of the Organization that the General Assembly elects by acclamation as Vice-Presidents the Full Members nominated by the six Regional Commissions, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, in advance of its relevant session, who take office insofar as they have not been suspended from exercising the rights and enjoying the privileges of membership in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes.

5. For the present extraordinary session, however, the Regional Commissions have not submitted any nominations for Vice-Presidents.

6. With a view to expediting the work of the extraordinary session, and insofar as the host country is Spain, it might be appropriate for the Assembly to appoint the same Officers as those of the 24th ordinary session held at Madrid, Spain, on 1-3 December 2021, namely: Spain as President and Cambodia, Gambia, Hungary, India, Iraq, Paraguay, Uruguay and Uzbekistan as Vice-Presidents. These Vice-Presidents had also been nominated by the Regional Commissions in accordance with the above-mentioned practice. This recommendation is in line with the consistent practice of the United Nations General Assembly, whereby the President and Vice-Presidents of the regular (ordinary) session are customarily elected to hold the same office at the special (extraordinary) session precisely "in order to expedite [its] work".

7. The Secretariat notes that Iraq is currently suspended from membership in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes for failure to comply with the terms established by the General Assembly resolution 736(XXIV): to be “up to date with [its] payment plans by 1 April 2022”. Consequently, Iraq is suspended from exercising the rights and enjoying the privileges of membership, including the holding of office in any of the organs of UNWTO.

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1 A/RES/729(XXIV)
2 A/24/2 rev.1
3 United Nations, official records of the 32nd Special Session of the General Assembly, 2 June 2021 (A/S-32/PV.1)
4 The General Assembly also decides to maintain the temporary exemption to the Full Members Chad, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Vanuatu as well as to the Affiliate Members Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University and Pacific Asia Travel Writers Association PATWA, albeit making it clear that these provisions will be reapplied to these Members if they are not up to date with their payment plans by 1 April 2022.
8. It is further noted that, unlike for the Credentials Committee\textsuperscript{5}, the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly do not foresee a fixed number of Vice-Presidents.

\textsuperscript{***}

\textsuperscript{5} See document A/EXT-1/3